

October 8, 1958

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Dr. Clifford Grobstein  
Biology Department  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Dear Cliff:

I've been asking a number of people to advise on the "bright young men" of tissue genetics in this country and have rather consistently been referred to Willys Silvers. It looks as if Av Mitchison is not going to be interested in our post in Genetics and we had better look closer to home. I would be most anxious to know your own feelings about Silvers, partly because you should be especially well informed, partly because his relationships with you might be one of the vital links between Genetics and Biology. I would anticipate he would continue along the lines of his more recent work with Billingham. If you have any alternative suggestions, they would be gratefully received. The general field of transplantation compatibility and tolerance is one we can hardly bypass in setting up the departmental program.

I've run into one other possibility; Leonard Herzenberg who's now in Harry Eagle's lab and a rare bird in sharing my own predilections for setting tissue culture on a sounder basis of origin from defined inbred strains of mice rather than heterogeneous human material. I had in mind the possibility of a senior fellowship rather than a staff appointment for him; do you know him at all?

Needless to say the questions are at a rather delicate stage.

"The favor of an early reply would be appreciated"; just annotate the enclosed CC if you like.

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Medical Genetics

For Reply:

Josh —  
I'm afraid I  
can't help with  
these. I know Silvers  
name only, and  
Herzenberg not at all.  
I have not been following  
tissue transplantation  
closely for a couple  
of years. Hauschka,  
Billingham, Condon,  
Law & Kaplan are  
people whose opinions  
I would ask for in  
this area.  
Might Purkin  
be interested? He  
impressed me as very  
bright for couple of  
times. I talked with  
him  
Post.  
C.